

Appln No. 09/637,846

Amdt date June 28, 2004

Reply to Office action of April 2, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above identified patent application has been amended and reconsideration and reexamination are hereby requested.

Claims 1, 3 - 10, 12 - 15 and 17 - 19 are now in the application. Claims 2, 11 and 16 have been cancelled. Claims 10, 15, 17 - 19 have been amended.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 10, 12 - 13, 15, 17 - 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Kelly et al. However, the Examiner has found claims 1, 3 - 9 allowable and that Claims 11, 14, 16 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicants' amended Claim 10 now calls for (underlining added for emphasis) ... wherein the master is inactive between assigning a MEDIUM priority and posting a request.

The Applicants' amended Claims 15 calls for (underlining added for emphasis) ... wherein the one said master is inactive after being assigned the MEDIUM priority until the one said master posts the request to control the PCI bus

The Applicants submit that the invention as claimed in Claims 10 and 15 is neither taught, described or suggested in Kelly et al. As noted by the Examiner in the present Office Action, the prior art fails to teach or suggest assigning a master a MEDIUM priority level, wherein the master is inactive until the master asserts a request signal when the master want to take control of the PCI bus.

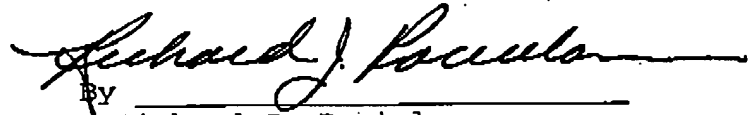
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Claims 12 - 14 are dependent on Claim 10. Claims 17 - 19 are dependent on Claim 15. As such, these dependent claims are believed allowable based upon Claims 10 and 15 respectively.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendment and remarks it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. Reconsideration and reexamination of the above Application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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